



February 13, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Powell:

As executive director of the Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce, I want to express my concerns about the current Unbundled Network Element environment in Ohio.

Having access to state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure is critical to our growing community. We need to have policies that stimulate network investment. The current UNE environment discourages investments by competitors and negatively impacts the ability of the local Telephone Company to continue investing at levels needed to maximize our economic development opportunities. We are firm believers in competition, but it doesn't make sense to force one competitor to subsidize all other competitors in a given marketplace.

Forcing local telephone companies to sell their service below cost is an unsustainable business model and is slowing down the investment of infrastructure that is so necessary to help jump-start the economy.

I encourage the FCC to review the entire UNE system and develop policies that will encourage network investments in our community and stimulate fair competition.

Sincerely,

Libby Gierach

Libby Gierach  
Executive Director  
Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce

cc:  
Commissioner Abernathy  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Martin  
Commissioner Copps